

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2025** AT 7.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT.

PRESENT Councillors A Hall (Chairperson) Presiding
B Bailey (Vice Chairperson)

Councillors C Davieson L Wood
A Ineson P Parker
M Joyce M Ryan
C Parker

In attendance: Natalie Hicks - Events Co-ordinator
Linda McGuirk - Principal Administrator
Pierre Doutreligne - Projects & Strategy Officer

Also present: A Representative of Newton Abbot Rotary

E01. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE EVENTS SUB COMMITTEE 2025/26

Nominations were received for the election of the Chairperson of the Events Sub Committee for the year 2025/2026.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Alex Hall be elected Chairperson of the Events Sub Committee for the year 2025/2026.

E02. APOLOGIES

Valid reasons for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Janet Bradford and Louise Cooke. Apologies were also noted on behalf of Nigel Canham - Communications Advisor.

E03. APPOINTMENT OF VICE - CHAIRPERSON OF THE EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE 2025/26

Nominations were received for the appointment of the Vice Chairperson of the Events Sub Committee for the year 2025/2026.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Brian Bailey be appointed Vice Chairperson of the Events Sub Committee for the year 2025/2026.

E04. INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED

Councillor Brian Bailey declared a pecuniary interest in agenda items 7 and 8 by virtue of owning a food business in the town.

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E05. MINUTES

The minutes of the Events Sub-Committee meeting held on the 9th April 2025 were received and signed as a correct record.

E06. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee gave due consideration to the Terms of Reference for the Events Sub-Committee, as circulated prior to the meeting. Members agreed it would be sensible to remove the list of current events in Section 5 and replace it with:

To consider and deal with all aspects relating to the management of the Council's annual programme of events.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED That the Terms of Reference for the Events Sub-Committee be hereby adopted, subject to Section 5 being amended as set out above.

E07. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

E08. EVENTS UPDATE

a) The Chairperson welcomed a representative of Rotary Newton Abbot to the meeting and invited her to give an update on the Saturday element of the Party in the Park event as organised by the Rotary, and to hear the Rotary's aspirations for 2026.

Rotary update (2025):

- Third consecutive year hosting the Saturday of Party In The Park; a larger event with the introduction of a Youth Zone (delivered with youth partners such as Young Devon, Newton Abbot Youth Council and The Space).
- The Rock Choir performed; the Mayor attended and engaged with stall holders and participants.
- Heatwave conditions affected operations; there was limited water available in the park and the dog show was cancelled on safety grounds.
- Targeted entertainment for teenagers included an art workshop which worked well, and it is hoped to be repeated in 2026.
- Food providers were well received and will be invited back in 2026.
- Noted the potential clash with Electric Bay held in Torbay, Newton Abbot Rotary have asked that the 2026 dates be avoided.

The Chairperson invited members to discuss and comment on the event:

Members' discussion:

- Desire for more entertainment/live music on the Saturday, including student bands.
- Youth provision was welcomed.

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- The PA provision worked well under an external provider; suggestion to invite the same individual to support the 2026 event.
- Options for involving stallholders on both days were considered, noting daily set down would be required.
- Ideas to strengthen the Sunday offer and create a broader “weekend of celebration” were explored.
- It was noted that the very hot weather affected the Sunday attendance and that the toilets were out of order.

The Events Co-ordinator suggested provisional dates of the 4th and 5th July 2026 to avoid Torbay Electric Bay. Members were concerned this would clash with the Newton Abbot Sunday Market in the Town Centre.

The Events Co-ordinator reported she had received feedback about the compatibility of the youth bands playing before the brass bands and suggested the future events should avoid a date scheduled for the summer band concerts.

Members discussed at length options to improve the event, with a weekend full of celebrations. Members confirmed they want the Town Council to be more ambitious and agreed the Events Co-ordinator, Events Chairperson and the Newton Abbot Rotary Club meet to consider options and report back.

b) The Events Co-ordinator gave an update on the Summer events including band concerts, Party in the Park, Town Criers and the Classic Car Show;

- Band Concerts: 4 of 5 concerts went ahead; the September date was cancelled due to bad weather. The Mayor’s charity collections at concerts ranged from £130 to £260.
- VE Celebrations: Beacons were lit at three sites with varied attendance; the lone piper was very well received on the Highweek site.
- Classic Car Show: The May show enjoyed excellent weather with over 60 cars in attendance; the September show was also well received. Dates for 2026 are being explored.
- Barham Cup: Very good weather and strong attendance.
- Town Criers Competition: Good turnout of criers, including some younger participants; popular event with favourable weather.

Overall, the summer events were all well received.

Members agreed the need to raise the Town Council’s profile at its events. It was noted that logo feather flags are being ordered and that NATC branding at events will be strengthened.

c) The Events Co-ordinator gave an update on the Winter events including Music in the Museum, Remembrance Sunday and the Christmas events planned.

The Events Co-ordinator reported on plans for the winter programme:

- Music in the Museum - Old Time Sailors event: sold out event and well received.

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- Music in the Museum - Jim Causley (Mon 13th October): ticket sales to be encouraged.
- Remembrance Sunday: planning is underway.
- Christmas Lights Switch-On (Saturday 22nd November): Born Hectic to manage street food/stalls; fireside selfies; PA booked; drummers and procession to the Clock Tower; participation from the Ipplepen Carnival float.
- Santa appearances: Mr & Mrs Claus to attend the Switch-On only. Nigel Canham stepping in; a Santa is still required for the Lantern Parade evening.
- Victorian Evening: proposed move to Courtenay Street. TDC stalls are unavailable; charities will need to provide their own gazebos and lighting.
- It was agreed that the Events Co-ordinator, Projects & Strategy Officer, the Chair of the Events Sub-Committee, and Councillor Brian Bailey would undertake a site walk-through on Wednesday, 8th October.
- Dog Carol Service: Events Co-ordinator attended a meeting with Animals In Distress. Plans are well under way, the service sheet from 2024 will be used as the event was cancelled due to the storms.
- Lantern Parade: Wednesday 10th December; primary schools engaged; school and public workshops planned; theme: Fairytales.
- Mayor's Carol Service: scheduled for Wednesday 17th December before Christmas; invite Ian to provide PA support.

E09. EVENTS 2026

Members discussed the list of proposed events for 2026, as tabled at the meeting, subject to the dates for Party In the Park being agreed. Members considered holding a new event and asked the Events Co-Ordinator to investigate holding a Pride event.

RESOLVED that the list of proposed events for 2026 be noted, subject to the dates for Party in the Park being agreed, and that the Events Co-ordinator investigate the feasibility of holding a Pride event and report back to a future meeting.

Cllr A Hall and M Ryan abstained from voting

E10. INCOME & EXPENDITURE

- a) The Events Co-ordinator referred to the Income and Expenditure report for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st August 2025 for the Events Sub-Committee, previously circulated.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure report for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st August 2025 for the Events Sub-Committee be hereby noted and accepted.

- b) Members were asked to give consideration to the Event Sub-Committee's budget requirements for 2026/27.

Arising from the discussion, it was:

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RESOLVED that the Events Sub-Committee request a budget of £40,000 for 2026/27, to include provision for an additional Pride event and inflationary increases.

Cllr M Ryan abstained

E11. LATE CORRESPONDENCE

None.

E12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairperson closed the meeting and advised the next meeting of the Events Sub-Committee would be held on Wednesday 28th January 2026.

Meeting closed at 20:25 hrs.

Chairperson.....Date.....

Chair initials.....